

John ADAMS, acquaintance of Father Orest, has relatives in Czechoslovakia. One of these relatives (male) "stole" all the religious objects he could from the local church before the Communists entered it. The relative still has the objects among which is a prized icon, the only one of its kind in existence. ADAMS plans to return to Czechoslovakia and will try to smuggle out the icon to the United States.

ADAMS knows Bishop Hopko's family. In a letter to Father Orest in October 1963, he wrote the following: "Our family comes from the Diocese of Presov. The bishop there was Pavel Gojdic who died in prison several years ago. The Communists burned his body and would not release it to the family. His auxiliary, Fr. Basil Hopko is still in prison."

In a letter to Father Orest on 7 December 1964, ADAMS writes: "I don't know if you have ever heard of Bishop Basily Hopko. He was the assistant to Bishop Gojdic of Presov, Czechoslovakia of the Byzantine Rite. Well, Gojdic died in prison and Hopko has been locked up for 15 years. He was partially released this fall but is in a charity home sort of, out of circulation. I had heard from him and have his address. Bishop Elko was wanting it very badly as no one has had contacts with him for so long and I know the family. I just got a letter today and of course Bishop Hopko is Ukrainian. He sends you his blessings and asks yours in return and to pray for him. He writes me in Slovak thus: 'Ya sam skoro 15 roky bebul na svece, and neznam jak svet idze, mislim ze tomu rozumice, vecej vam otym nechscem pisac.' He also asked to tell you thus: 'Pozdravce toho Otca Duchovneho v Chisholm co su tam, jako Ukrainec, a povedzte jim, ze se za nich tez budzeme modlic, aby cim vecej Dus privedli do spassenja, a lem naj maju radzi tych nasich Ukrajincov, bo to je narod, ktory furt cerpi, a je to barz dobry narod.' I hope you can read this as he wrote it in our own dialect of Saris as he can talk this also. I just sent him some money thru Tuzex and am waiting to see if he gets it all, as he writes to me at times under a false name. He is guarded now in a home where there are 200 nuns from Monasteries all over Slovakia and many are too old so they can use some help. You might mention this to your Bishop Gabro as I think he also is Ukrainian, isn't he? And he might want to help in some way or some of your faithful but I first want to see if he gets what I sent. He told me that he could so will have to see. If you would want to send him a note or blessing in Ukrainian send it to me and I will see that he gets it."

A month later ADAMS wrote Father Orest again. He mentioned that the Superior of the Poor Clares in Chicago gave him \$25.00 to send to Hopko. He mentions again that it would be nice if Father Orest wrote in Ukrainian to bishop Hopko. He also said, "I know most of B. Hopko's family and many are priests who have been in hiding with their families. (Note from Ann: I wonder if he means "and many other priests who have been in hiding?") It has been hard for them to get along especially with families to take care of. I have sent Elko the names of many of these Greek Rite Priests who were driven from their parishes and he has been real good in sending some help to each thru Tuzex and they do get it."

In another letter dated January 11, 1965, ADAMS said he had another letter from Bishop Hopko and was so glad to hear from him and that he had gotten the \$20.00 sent to him. "If you like, write him a letter in Ukrainian and send it to me as he said he would like to hear from you. He thought your church was so beautiful. (Note: ADAMS sent snapshots of Father Orest's church to Bishop Hopko.) I also asked him if it would hurt him if you or Bishop Gabro would want to write to him yourselves so will wait for his answer."

February 25, 1965

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[REDACTED] Adams [REDACTED] is a Slovak, who became acquainted with a Slovak woman (Latin riter), who is married to a Ukie (who goes to church with her) and she invited him to the Range for a vacation. Two summers ago he came up and showed us slides of his visit to Czechoslovakia, where he has relatives. One of these relatives went into their church and stole as much as he could (if you'd care to call it stealing) before the Communists came in. He is still in possession of these church goods, among which are valuable goods and a prize Icon. Adams tells me that Bishop Elko of Pgh. would like to acquire this Icon, since it is the only one in existence. John (Adams) plans to return to Czechoslovakia and smuggle the icon back to the States. Some how he met Hopko (don't know if he actually met him personally,) but he knows the Hopko family... he says. BUT let's go to the beginning. That nite when he showed the slides, we got to talking and I mentioned we sell cookbooks and Mary Sinko (the Slovak) said she helps us to sell them. He took one home and soon after wrote me a letter and asked that I send him about 10, which he sold & then at least a half dozen times wrote for more. *Will now check these letters... since I've been keeping all correspondence on cookbook orders since my arrival here. Back in Oct. '63 was when he 1st mentioned anything about the Commies and bishops: "I just wonder what the Reds are up to this time by releasing the Czech Archbishop and several others. I notice one of them was Bishop Vojtassak of the Spis diocese. He is very old about 87 I think & has been jailed a long time. They ought to release some of the Greek-Rite prelates also that they have in jail in Eastern Czechoslovakia. Our family came from the Diocese of Presov and the Bishop there his name was ~~Pat~~ Pavel Gajdic he died in prison a few yrs ago they even burned his body and would not release it to the family. But his auxiliary Fr. Basil Hopko is still in prison." (end of this ltr)... this was the 2nd time we wrote. Nothing in 3rd letter (came few wks later). In the next ltr he mentioned the Greek Rite Poor Clares in Chicago. There were a few ltrs in between but he mentioned nothing more

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till July of '64 and told me about a vacation to Dakota South.... "Three of us went out to see a ranch very big operation 12,000 acres but so desolate not a tree on it. It was 12 miles from town not too far. Town was called Leola about 1,000 pop. d ~~XXXXXX~~ Had a nice Catholic church all of the people in that vicinity are Russian-Germans never heard of them I thought perhaps they were border people but they came from deep in Russia close to Odessa. Most were born and the Tsar run them out in 1890's. Most are Catholic but also Lutherans and mixed up." (end).

Dec. 7. '64:

"I have been waiting tonite for a call from Bishop Elko of Pgh. as he was to come into Chicago today for a banquet. Still may hear from him tonite as we sort of have a project on: (the Icon, Rudy). I don't know if U have ever heard of Bishop Vasily Hopko but he was the assistant to Bishop Gojdic of Presov Czechoslovakia of the Byzantine Rite. Well Gojdic died in prison and Hopko has been locked up for 15 yrs. (Rudy, this last statement, which he repeated but seems to have forgotten (?) makes me sort of think that there's nothing wrong here). He was partially released this fall but is in a charity home sort of out of circulation. I had heard from him and have his address and Elko was wanting it very badly as no one has had contacts with him for so long and I know the family. By the way in my last letter to him I sent him a couple of the pictures of your church & that I took and he got them and was so happy. I just got a letter today and of course Bishop & Hopko is Ukrainian. He sends you his blessing and asks yours in return and to pray for him. He writes to me in Slovak thus: "Ja som skoro 15 roky bebul na švace, and neznam jak svet idze, mišlim ze tomu rozumice, vecej vam k otym nechscem pisac." He also asked to tell you thus: "Pozdravce toho Otca Duchovneho v Chisholm co su tam, jako Ukraineec, a povedzte jim, ze se za nich tez budzenie modlic, aby cim vecej Dušprivedli do spašenia, a lem naj maju radzi tych našich Ukrajincov, bo to je narod, ktory furt cerpi, a je to barz dobry narod." Adams continues: I hope you can read this as he wrote it in our own k dialect of Saris as he can talk this also. I just sent him some money thru Tuzex and am waiting to see if he gets it all, as he writes to me at times under a false name. He is guarded now in a home where there are 200 Nuns from Monasterys all over Slovakia and many are too old so they can use some help. You might mention this to your Bishop Gabro as I think he also is Ukrainian isn't he? And he might want to help in some way or some of your faithful but I first want to see if he gets what I sent he told me that he could so will have to see. Gee I started this out as a short note and look what I have written to you. If you would I want to send him a note or blessing in Ukrainian send it to me and I will see that he gets it. Do you see the Sinkos? Our regards to them I owe Mary a letter so am ashamed of myself but will have to take time and write soon. Am enclosing a couple of pictures like I sent to Hopko and hope you like them I think they turned out real good." (End).

A month later another letter came from Adams with a repetition of what he mentioned about Hopko above (except no quotations in Slovak from Hopko). He mentions that the Superior of the Poor Clares in Chicago gave him \$25. to send to Hopko. He mentions again that it would be nice if I wrote in Ukian to Bishop Hopko. He was a bit peeved with Bishop Elko since he left pix with the Poor Clards, which he picked up and returned them via mail without a word in it. But this part is interesting: "I know most of B. Hopko's family and many are priests who have been in hiding with their families. Has been hard for them to get along especially with families to take care of. I have sent Elko the names of many of these Greek Rite Priests who were driven from their parishes and he has been real good in sending some help to each thru Tuzex (what is Tuzex Rudy?) and they do get it.

*In his ltr dated Jan. 11. he said he had another letter from Bishop Hopko and was so glad to hear from him and that he had gotten the \$20. that he sent him. "If you like

write him a letter in Ukrainian and send it to me as he said he would like to hear from you as he thought your church was so beautiful. I also asked him if it would hurt him if you or Bishop Gabro would want to write to him yourselves so will wait for his answer."

I'm going to wait till I do hear from him, and may just write to Bishop Hopko. Let me know what you think now Rudy?